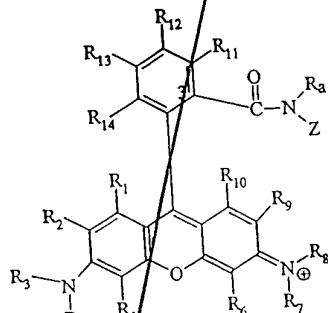


where R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> taken alone are hydrogen or halogen; R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> taken alone are hydrogen, alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylether, alkylthioether, halogen or alkoxy; R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, taken alone are hydrogen, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl; R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 2' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 7' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 4' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>, taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 5' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon; R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon; R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub>, R<sub>13</sub>, and R<sub>14</sub> are each hydrogen or halogen, where R<sub>a</sub> and R<sub>a'</sub> are non-hydrogen substituents, wherein R<sub>a</sub> confers resistance to lactam ring formation [, and Ra, includes a group reactive to derivatization]; and,

conjugating the fluorophore with an organic compound to be labeled under covalent bond forming conditions, the conjugating through the R<sub>a'</sub> group of the fluorophore, the resultant conjugate being fluorescent upon excitation with light of a determinable wavelength.

10. (Amended) A fluorescent conjugate comprising:  
a conjugated substance and a fluorophore, the conjugated substance being an amino acid, peptide, protein, nucleotide, oligonucleotide, or nucleic acid to which is attached one or more fluorophores, the fluorescent conjugate having the structure illustrated by Formula I

## FORMULA



where  $R_1$  and  $R_{10}$  taken alone are hydrogen or halogen;  $R_2$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_9$  taken alone are hydrogen, alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylether, alkylthioether, halogen or alkoxy;  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  taken alone are hydrogen, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, carboxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 2' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon;  $R_9$  and  $R_8$  taken together are alkyl chains each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 7' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon;  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 4' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon;  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  taken together are alkyl, each having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms connecting the 5' carbon to the nitrogen attached to the 6' carbon;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the nitrogen attached to the 3' carbon;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  taken together form an alkyl or alkylene chain containing up to 5 atoms in the principal chain, consisting of carbon and one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of nitrogen or oxygen, with both terminal valence bonds of said chain being attached to the